

THANKS TO YOU

First of all, we would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to all of those who participated in the Department of Environment & Conservation and WWF-Australia 2012 Quenda (Bandicoot) Survey. The information collected during the survey will contribute to a greater understanding of the habitat, distribution and conservation of quendas.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The survey received a terrific response from **944** quenda lovers who reported over **1,000** sightings. **210** reporters sent in photos and **99%** of these were quendas (the remaining **1%** of photos were a black rat & a mardo or yellow-footed antechinus).

The results are still being analysed, but the preliminary analysis shows:

- * That quendas do appear to be declining in some areas, and this is probably linked to the loss of native vegetation.
- * The importance of remnant bushlands in proximity to gardens
- * The importance of low, dense vegetation.
- * Quenda are still very common in some areas and are very welcome as suburban wildlife.



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WHAT'S KILLING OUR QUENDAS?

The survey gathered information from the public about sightings of both live and dead quendas, and the causes of death, where known. It may sound gruesome, but animal remains can teach us a lot about a species, its distribution and threats.

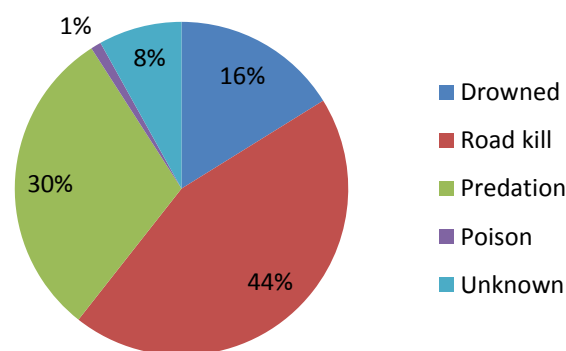


Figure: Causes of quenda mortality reported in the 2012 Quenda Survey

The most commonly reported cause of death (44%) was vehicle strike – mostly cars, but it seems even fast-moving pushbikes can prove fatal to small, unwary mammals.

As expected, introduced predators are also a big problem for quendas. Cat, dog and fox predation made up almost a third of all reported mortality events. On the flipside, many people also called to tell us that their own cat or dog seemed to have embraced a 'live and let live' philosophy and would even tolerate the resident quendas stealing food from their bowls.

But however friendly your own pet seems towards quendas, unfortunately the evidence shows that non-native predators are having a large impact on native wildlife.

Please be a responsible pet owner! Keep your cat indoors and prevent your dog from roaming.



A WATERY FATE

Worryingly, a new threat to quendas has emerged that we didn't expect: the common swimming pool. Residents reported a total of 62 quendas that had drowned in pools, fish ponds or drain pipes. At 16%, that's a significant proportion of the reported mortality events.

Impressively, many people who had experienced the trauma of finding a dead or drowning quenda in their pool found resourceful ways to prevent it happening again.

A pool cover is probably the best solution, as it has the added benefit of reducing water loss through evaporation. If you haven't got a pool cover, a brick placed on the top step might be all a quenda needs to get a foothold and escape a watery death. And a shallow dish of water placed elsewhere in the garden may help attract the quendas to a safer source of water, although we suspect quendas sometimes fall in to pools while running or fighting, not just when attempting to drink.

It is likely that ongoing urban development into bushland areas will expose quendas more frequently to cars, cats, dogs and swimming pools.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

A shallow, safe water source can be placed in a shady spot in the garden and maintaining some low, dense, vegetation will provide cover from predators. You could contact your local council and ask about putting up road signs in areas where quenda are being hit by cars. Also, support local initiatives to plant native trees and shrubs, especially close to waterways and wetlands where quenda prefer to live.

To find out more about quendas, go to:
<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au>

And keep an eye on the WWF blog for future updates:
<http://blog.wwf.org.au>



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The 2012 Quenda Survey has now closed but you can still lodge your quenda sightings with the Species and Communities Branch of DEC by emailing the location, a description of the animal and your contact details to fauna@dec.wa.gov.au.

Quenda tissue needed for DNA analysis

Kym Otewell (DEC) is studying the genetic diversity and connectivity of quenda populations across their range in WA.

She wants to find out how quenda populations have been impacted by habitat fragmentation and how nature reserves may be better designed to aid in quenda conservation.

If you find a recently killed quenda that is not too decomposed please consider collecting a small sample for DNA analysis. A small section of ear tip placed in a clean ziplock bag (with collection location details) and frozen as soon as possible is all that is required.

Please contact Kym on 08 9219 9086 or kym.ottewell@dec.wa.gov.au for further details if you think you may be able to help.